THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Issue 8 Volume XXIII December 1, 1993

New Athletic Facility repeatedly denied

by Kris Ruberti
Strobe staff

The Secretary of Education's office has issued a five year capital project priority list, consisting of $200 million for the nine state colleges and 15 community colleges. Once again, to the dismay of President Mara and other faculty, the proposal for a physical education center was denied.

The "non-athletic president", as Mara refers to himself, thinks that the center is vital to the college. "When I looked over the facilities on campus, the one thing that was missing was a good physical education facility," said Mara.

Professor James Sheehan feels that the existing gymnasium is "totally inadequate." He feels that it is difficult to conduct classes in such a facility because it is so small and scheduling time slots for so many students and faculty is a problem. Safety is also a concern of Sheehan's because of the size of classes and limited space.

"If the facility was bigger, we could have more classes going on at the same time," said Sheehan. "What we have now is smaller than most high school gyms."

The battle has been going on since 1980 when the state was back on its feet financially. The Higher Education Department was going to receive money for such proposals but Mara said, "I received political promises and nothing else."

In 1989, it was decided that there would be a master plan for the colleges. All 29 of the state funded facilities would lobby for a major package. Three principals were to represent all the colleges: the president of U-Mass, a president of a community college, and President Mara, who was chosen to represent the state colleges. $22 million was allotted for the budget, still nothing happened. The proposal reached the House Ways and Means Committee and got knocked out.

The PhysicalEducation center would cost $22 million and would consist of everything including dance, wrestling, and fencing studios. It would even contain a Presidential Box to watch basketball games. The complex would be located on the John Fitch Highway behind the McKay Campus School.

Money has been appropriated for repairs and renovation projects. FSC is on the list for $5.6 million in deferred maintenance of buildings and $1.5 million in Academic renovation projects in Condike, Conlon, Edgerly, McKay, and Thompson. FSC used some of its funds to install elevators for handicapped accessibility, a task not all state colleges have yet done.

According to Mara, the major problem in the budget is that the state wants to put $200 million into state and community colleges, but they want $100 million to come from the students. "I don't favor having my students pay for repairs and renovations to academic buildings," he said. He doesn't dispute that the buildings need to be fixed, but he feels that the taxpayer should pay for it because it is a state college. However, he said that if the students do have to pay for it, they should get the Physical Education Center.

"There's nothing wrong with paying a fee if the building already exists," said Sheehan, arguing that students would not want to pay for a facility that they would not be able to take advantage of. Sheehan thinks that students are using off campus gyms and spending money in membership fees that could be coming to the college if such a facility existed.

The Physical Education Department supports and contributes to the goals of the central mission of FSC. According to Physical Education Professor Dr. Thomas Battinelli, this department needs a lot of equipment and facilities. Health and Fitness at FSC is a required program which includes general instruction in the areas of health, wellness, and exercise. The department wants to update its program by including other aspects of physical education in "sub-programs."

One "sub-program" in this department is General Physical Education program which provides opportunities for students to participate in activities aimed at the development of physical fitness and performance skills for present and future use.

Another "sub-program" is the Professional Preparation program, the goals of which is to provide career alternatives to students related to their chosen fields of endeavor. To incorporate these programs, FSC needs equipment and facility additions. According to a paper put out by the Physical Education Department, "If program growth is to occur, the need for a new facility is paramount."

The state budget for the Higher Education Department has decreased funding from five percent to only three percent versus the Criminal Justice and Human Service Departments which have increased dramatically.

Mara has been willing to come down from a major facility to a fitness center that would be located on the south side of the campus. This facility would only cost $7 million, yet the proposal was still denied. Mara wants to alert the students to the issue by calling upon the Student Government Association(SGA) to communicate the problem to other SGAs and try to gain some positive reinforcement.

The Secretary of Education has taken the position that this is not the time to be looking for that type of facility. A discouraged President Mara disagrees. "At the rate we're going now we'd be lucky to see a gym in 20 years."

Borysenko discusses the need to heal

Joan Borysenko photo by Eric Metzner

by Jennifer Schull
Staff writer

As students, faculty, and guests filtered into Kent Recital Hall awaiting a lecture by Dr. Joan Borysenko, on November 16, an overwhelming sense of peacefulness encompassed the auditorium while music quietly played in the background. The lecture, "Exploring the Heart of Healing", based on her best-selling book, "Minding the Body, Mending the Mind", presented the scientific, emotional and spiritual aspects of healing.

Originally from Brookline, Massachusetts, Borysenko currently lives in the Rocky Mountains, north of Boulder, Colorado. She initially realized that she was interested in how the mind affects the body at the age of six. At ten, she became interested in mental illness and wondered why some could recover from it while others could not.

Experiencing nightmares and becoming reluctant to distinguish night from day, she developed an obsessive- compulsive disorder in which she performed rituals daily in order to save her family from harm. Through a tremendous act of will, she returned to a normal life again and quit performing these rituals.

The experiences of her childhood helped her decide the course of her life. While studying at Harvard Medical School, she became a medical scientist and received her doctorate in cell biology and anatomy. Borysenko was also interested in the mind-body connection in relation to cancer, and for a number of years, she studied as a cell biologist. After loosing her father to cancer, she recognized that she should be working with people.

Borysenko travels the world making people aware of the need to heal. She spoke about hospitals she has visited and the ways in which they supply nature to their patients. At one hospital, the patients are either facing the east or the west, so that everyday they can see the sun either rise or set. They also have fishing ponds outside of the hospital allowing patients to fish, talk, and visit each other frequently.

Throughout the lecture, Borysenko discussed Dr. Larry Dossey's three dimensional ideas of medicine. The three stages include Era I: the technology of modern medicine; Era II: mind/body medicine; and Era III: the intersection of spirituality with medicine. "We need all three eras to have a complete system of medicine," said Borysenko. Later in her lecture, she also discussed near death experiences and multiple personality disorders as well as the effects that arise from them.

Her talk ended with some advice for living a healed life. She said that happiness came from realizing interconnectedness with everything in life. She added that love should be sent out along these connections. Finally, to those who wanted to stay an extra few minutes at the end of her lecture, she conducted a meditation session with calm music from "Timeless Motion" by Daniel Kobialka.

IN THIS ISSUE

You see her every day as you pass by the library. Find out more about this fascinating woman.

Story on page 4

Suzi Landolphi kept Percival Auditorium in stitches with her educational humor.

Story on page 8

The FSC hockey team is off to a roaring start, defeating last year's champs.

Story on page 12

Campus News	page 1
Features	page 4
Opinion	page 6
A+E	page 8
Sports	page 12

ABC tours Central Artery Project

by Richard Walsh
Contributing writer

Members of the Associated Builder's and Contractors (ABC) and Epsilon Pi Tau were invited to tour the Central Artery/Tunnel Project (CATP) in Boston on November 10. The tour began with a 45 minute slide show presentation of the project given by Richard Jarvis, the Community Liaison for the project.

Jarvis took the group down the newly constructed South Boston Haul Road/Bypass Road which was built on the site of some abandoned railroad tracks so that trucks carrying dirt and debris from the work sites wouldn't use city streets. The bypass road is also open to any commercial vehicles.

This trip led to the next stop on the FSC group's tour, the entrance of the Third Harbor Tunnel, a 4,000 foot long tunnel 40 feet under Boston Harbor which connects South Boston with East Boston and Logan Airport.

The final stop on the tour was to see one of the twelve tubes for the tunnel being prepared for installation at Black Falcon Terminal in South Boston. Each tube, 320 feet long, 80 feet wide, and 50 feet tall, will holds four lanes of traffic. The twelve tubes will be placed end to end 90 feet below water level and then covered with stone to protect the tubes from damage.

The 33,000 ton tubes are prepared and sunk to the bottom by pouring thousands of tons of concrete over the top of them. These tubes actually float without the concrete to sink them. They are then sealed together with hydraulic presses.

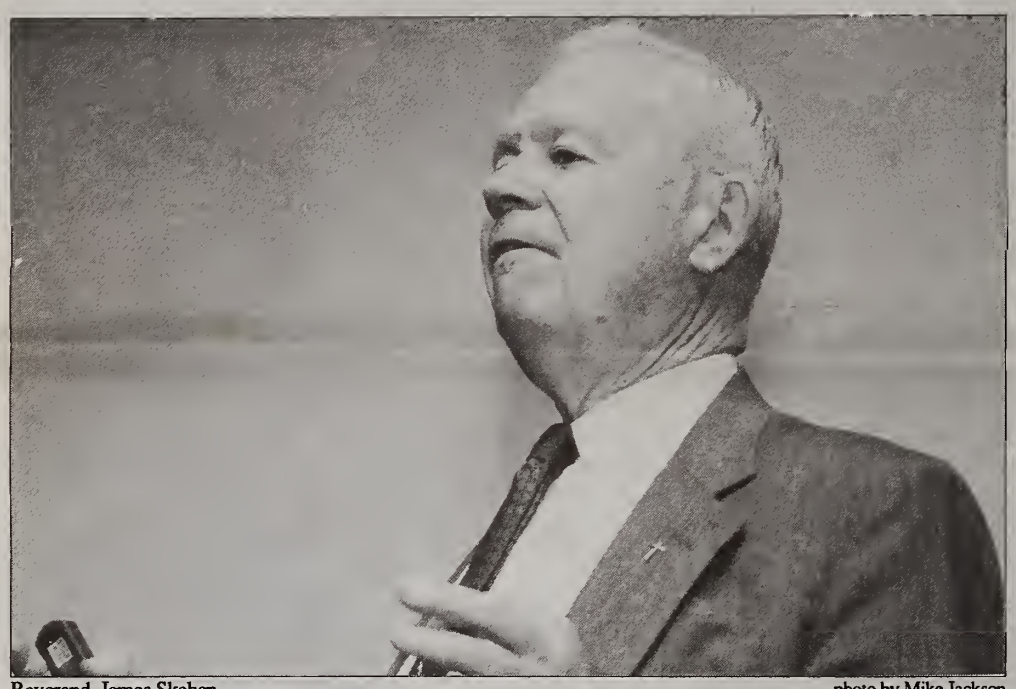
The tour concluded with an explanation of how the CATP will be constructed. The CATP will completely replace the elevated section of I-93 Central Artery with a new, mostly underground road.

The project is estimated to cost $6.4 billion with 85 to 90 percent reimbursement from the federal government. The remaining 10 to 15 percent will be funded by the Massachusetts State Gas Tax.

One section of twelve that are sunk to form the Central Artery Tunnel. photo by Marc Zenli

The artery will be able to hold 190,000 cars, a vast difference from the 75,000 car capacity the original artery was designed for. Carbon monoxide emissions are expected to be reduced by 12.5 million kilograms because the cars will be moving faster and therefore burning less fuel.

The millions of yards of dirt from the project will go to cap an abandoned dump site on Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor to create a 100 acre, clean, attractive park. In total 130 acres of new park land will be created, 30 of which will be downtown where the elevated Central Artery is now.


Reverand James Skehan photo by Mike Jackson

VALS lecturer discusses Geology

by Audra Johnson
Staff writer

The Visiting Artists and Lecturers Series(VALS) sponsored a presentation by Reverend James W. Skehan, S.J., in Ellis White Lecture Hall last Thursday. The lecture was hosted by the Geography/Physical Sciences faculty and attracted mainly Geography Club members and faculty.

Skehan is a native of Fitchburg and has seven academic degrees, including a Ph.D. in Geology from Harvard University. A slide show helped Skehan explain Plate Tectonics, rock formations, volcanic arcs, and geological structures.

He discussed the time frame and locations of geological structures, specifically in Eastern Massachusetts. He compared the similarities of these structures in relation to the coast of Western Africa.

Rock formations were another point of interest in his lecture. The fact that Eastern North America were once connected proves the correlation of rock formations and tryolibite fossils. Slides also show incredible contortions of rocks that have been folded and refolded due to the collisions and pushing of the continental plates.

Although Massachusetts doesn't have active fault lines today, 200 million years ago earthquakes were probably quite common as Africa shifted away from North America.

According to Skehan, Fitchburg lies on the Avalon and Gander belts. He assured that since this fault is not presently active, we won't be floating away any time soon.

Dance Prism's 'Nutcracker' coming to FSC

Press Release

"The Nutcracker", presented by the Dance Prism and sponsored by the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, will be performed at 2:30 on December 11 at Weston Auditorium. This is one stop of the company's eleventh annual fifteen city New England tour with the traditional Christmas ballet.

The production features lively choreography, Tchaikovsky's beloved music, and a cast of 145 professional dancers and children, with Marina Flesses and Scott Ranagan who will dance the roles of the Sugarplum Fairy and her Cavalier. Included in the performance are all the anticipated wonders of "The Nutcracker": a sleigh with reindeer, a magically growing Christmas tree, and mysterious boxes from which pop up all sorts of surprises. The production carries over 200 colorful costumes and scenery that transports the audience from a Victorian parlor to the Snow Forest and Palace of Sweets.

The Dance Prism, co-directed by Mary Demaso and Scott Ranagan, is a Boston based touring company which performs throughout New England as a chamber ballet for much of the year. Its professional dancers are drawn from New York, Pennsylvania, and Athens as well as the New England area.

The children and younger dancers in "The Nutcracker" cast are selected from over 500 who participated in state-wide open auditions in October. Carrie Belliveau, from the Turning Point Dancing School in Fitchburg will be dancing in the production. Some of the other local students dancing in the production are from Groton, Littleton, Westford, and Acton.

The tickets are $14 for adults and $7 for students and seniors with group rates available. They can be obtained in G-lobby from 10-2 pm or by calling (508) 459-0045.

'Children Cope with Divorce' seminar scheduled

FSC Press Release

Fitchburg State College, in conjunction with Children's Aid and Ranily Service, will sponsor an information session on the nationally-acclaimed "Children Cope With Divorce" seminar on Dec. 1 at 8:30 pm in the Professional Development Center at the McKay Teacher Education Center.

The session is aimed at social counselors, social workers and psychologists who are in a position to refer parents to the seminar.

Available through Children's Aid and Family Service, the seminar provides parents with strategies to help their children through the trauma of divorce. It covers the variety of children's reaction, responding to their individual needs, understanding differences in developmental levels, keeping children out of the adult struggle, and getting help when needed. It emphasizes continuation of the mother-father roles even as the husband-wife relationship is ending.

Presenters will include Glendon M. Geike, director of the Family Counseling Center; Joanne McCrea, administrator of the seminar, and a couple who have completed the seminar.

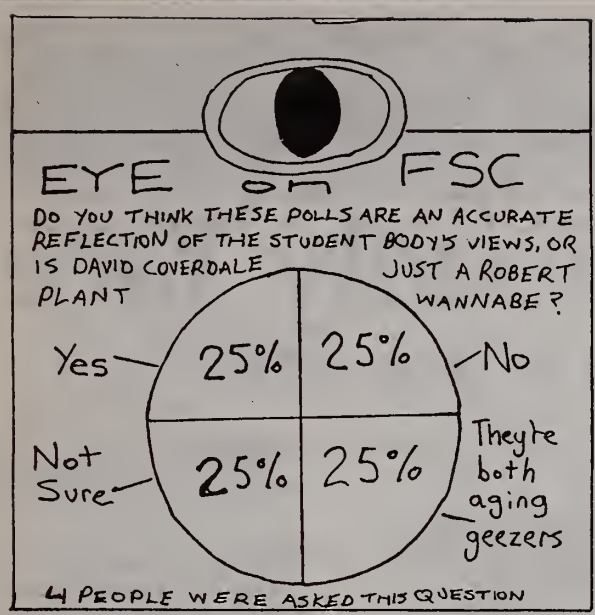
For more information, call (508) 345-2343.

FREE TRIPS & CASH

Call us and find out how hundreds of students are already earning FREE TRIPS and LOTS OF CASH with **America's #1 Spring Break** company!

Choose Cancun, Bahamas, Jamaica, Panama, Daytona or Padre! CALL NOW!
TAKE A BREAK STUDENT TRAVEL

(800) 328-SAVE or (617) 424-8222.



PROFESSOR PROFILE: Dr. Musicianatti Smith

by Shawn Brim

Dr. Musicianatti Smith of the Clothing department is a really nice person who likes puppies and kids and Mexican food. She actually likes more than just Mexican food which is good she says or else she'd get sick of all that Mexican food. She went to college and then got married and then got a job and then got a divorce. No- she got the divorce and then got a job. She's a really nice person and she likes swimming even in the ocean even though it's all dirty and salty. She likes it here at FSC but she wishes she got paid more because she doesn't get much but she says that's because FSC is a state school so it's not very good so they don't make as much as the good schools.

Dr. Smith likes to shop a lot and she does it during Fridays which are her research days because she says she is researching clothes. She enjoys teaching the students here except for the lazy ones that skip her classes often. "I enjoy teaching the students here except for the ones that are lazy and skip my classes often," she says.

Philosophical Sports Question of the Week: Is there Free Will In Baseball?

Skippy Laine

"HECK, YEAH! EACH AND EVERY PLAYER HAS THE FREEDOM TO STEAL A BASE OR NOT STEAL A BASE. EACH PITCHER MAY THROW A FASTBALL OR A CURVE OR A SLIDER. THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF THIS AMERICAN SPORT!"

Brian Goddard

"DON'T LISTEN TO SKIPPY!" FREE WILL IS AN ILLUSION IN BASEBALL. EVERY MOVE A PLAYER MAKES IS THE DECISION OF THE HIGHER POWERS AT CBS. THE NETWORKS ARE THE TRUE DECISION MAKERS."

Eddie Cruiser

"YES THERE IS AND ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA ALL THE WAY!"

Rusty Cage

"LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT BASEBALL. IT'S A SPORT. IT'S A SPORT AND I USED TO PLAY IT BUT I DON'T ANYMORE ON ACCOUNT OF MY BAD ANKLE."

©1993 KONQUAT COMICS INC. BY MEMO -HEY! THIS IS A PARODY, KYLE!

So, you're in desperate need of a computer but you're totally broke until after the new year.

Now, you can take home some of our most popular Macintosh® and PowerBook® models with no money down and no payments for 90 days. (You could qualify with a phone call, but must apply by January 28, 1994.) It's all part of the new Apple Computer Loan. And, for a limited time, seven incredibly useful software programs will be included all for one low price. So, celebrate this season with a brand-new Macintosh or PowerBook computer. It does more. It costs less. It's that simple.

Introducing The New Apple Computer Loan

For more information visit your Campus Computer Information Center.
To order direct from Apple or to learn more about Apple products and financing,
CALL 1-800-877-4433, ext. 40.

©1993 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Macintosh, and PowerBook are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc.

More than just a friendly face

Lindstedt a true friend of the arts

by Jason Koivu
Staff writer

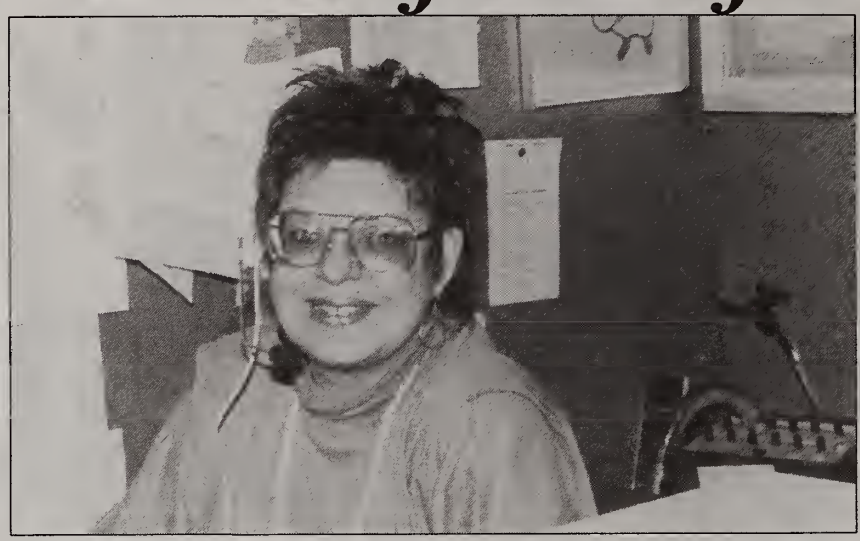


photo by Paula Ferazzi

"My life has been in the arts and theatre, one way or another," says Judith Lindstedt, a switchboard operator for directory here at FSC.

Born and raised in Fitchburg, Mrs. Lindstedt took up dancing at the early age of six and went on to become a professional dancer after high school.

"I spent twelve years traveling Europe as an independent dancer, sometimes being booked as part of a larger show, such as the 'Casino at Lebanon', which at the time was considered the largest show in the world," says Lindstedt.

After coming back to Fitchburg in 1980, Lindstedt got involved in producing a Fitchburg Access television program entitled "An Uncommon View".

"It's a program of diversity" that airs weekly on channel 36. Having been on for two years, "An Uncommon View" is the longest running show at that station. This might be attributed to the wide variety of programming put forth by Lindstedt. There have been shows done on Russian folksingers, senior citizens, grey hounds, musicians, the King Richard's Faire, skydiving, poets, Finland, sharpshooting and other various topics.

Lindstedt is also an Associate Editor for Slug Fest LTD, "a small network magazine of creative expression published out of Leominster." They are always looking for publishable material and Linstedt encourages faculty and students to get in touch with her if they have anything to present for possible publication.

Lindstedt has also produced and directed plays, some of which have aired on "An Uncommon View". She has even transcribed short stories from local writers and made them into scripts. She is an advocate of student involvement in projects like this, as well as general involvement in the community.

Judith Lindstedt is a friend of the arts and a great asset to Fitchburg State College. It's too bad there aren't more like her.

Handling holiday stress

Compiled by Counseling Services

This time of the year can be very stressful. The belief that everyone is excited to be going home and "tis the season to be jolly" is inaccurate. In fact, it is common for people to experience stress and feelings of disappointment during the holidays. Unrealistic expectations, time and financial constraints, and family conflicts can all contribute to one feeling the "holiday blues".

With so many activities scheduled and different demands on your time, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and tense. And the reality of getting together with family is usually very different than the expectations that are portrayed on TV or in advertisements. For those who romanticize or idealize the holidays as how they ought to be or may have been in the past, this season can be disappointing.

It is a myth that all families get together and enjoy a happy, loving and peaceful holiday. The pressures of the season can exacerbate relationship conflicts and amplify feelings of dissatisfaction. And many people have families that are estranged, absent or nonexistent.

Another myth around the holiday season is that all students are excited about going home. For some, returning home for a few days or a few weeks is both depressing and anxiety producing. Tension may arise from either having family together or from missing family members not present. The holiday season is particularly difficult for those who have suffered a loss of a family member or friend.

Feeling down or "blue" during this time of year is common, but does not have to be inevitable. There are things you can do to handle the stress of the holidays and take care of yourself. In the spirit of being good to yourself, here is a new version of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

1. Be realistic about your expectations and try to enjoy each moment of THIS holiday season rather than making comparisons to other times.

2. Look for healthy and appropriate ways to relieve stress. Write down a list of the activities that give you pleasure. Enjoy them alone or in the company of others.

3. Start early and plan ahead. It really is OK to have time left over and relax.

4. Give yourself a break. Remember - "God REST ye merry gentlemen" and gentlewomen.

5. Reach out to new and old friends. If you're lonely this season, make a call to someone you've gotten out of touch with.

6. Get plenty of sleep and exercise. Exercise changes your blood chemistry and nervous system in ways that can elevate your mood.

7. Consider alcohol-free celebrating to enjoy the real spirit of the holidays.

8. Allow yourself to enjoy BOTH giving and receiving. It really is the thought that counts.

9. Be ready for the transition back home. Be prepared that although your lifestyle might have changed while at school, your family's may not have.

10. Think ahead to what your support system will be at home. Who can you talk to? (Friends, family, etc.)

11. Are there tasks or projects that you've been avoiding? Make a list and get back into a hobby or craft that you've neglected.

12. While reaching out and helping others can be a great way to get your mind off your own worries, don't unquestioningly put everyone else's needs first: your needs count too!

Counseling Services at FSC provides professional, confidential counseling and crisis intervention. Referrals can also be made to off-campus psychotherapists and other specialized professionals. Counseling Services is available free of charge to all full-time undergraduate students at FSC.

Appointments can be made by phone or in person during office hours, which are: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. There is also a drop in time, Monday through Friday from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in which students can be seen for a briefer consultation without an appointment.

FSC's resident cartoonist

by Craig Cucchiara
Strobe staff

If you've been reading The Strobe this semester, you've probably read one of the Kumquat Comics. These cartoons are the invention of Memo Salazar, a junior film student here at Fitchburg State College.

"Some people are loudmouthed" and are always giving people their opinions, said Salazar. Giving unsolicited advice and criticism "doesn't solve any problems." Salazar uses his Kumquat Comics to point out things he thinks are funny or hypocritical; it's a satire. "People will read this if they want to," and readers are allowed to draw their own conclusions. There is no preaching or moralizing.

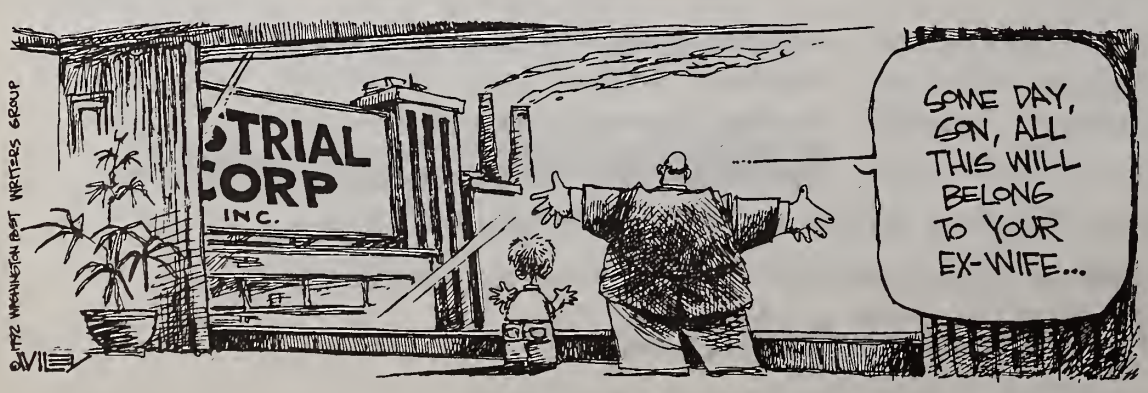
Memo got his start as a cartoonist "doodling in notebooks and stuff." In the eighth grade, he drew up a cartoon he called "Mach Men", poking fun at the way male teachers tried to portray themselves to the students. The cartoon, doodled on notebook paper in class, was circulated around Salazar's classroom and his fellow students responded to the humor. So did the teachers. The cartoon was intercepted but Salazar didn't get in trouble because it made the teacher laugh, too.

Salazar, who as a film major is interested in the use of all forms of media, is not looking for a career as a cartoonist. "I have a lot of little ideas, but when I run out of them I'll stop. I don't want to force something that's not up to par," said Salazar.

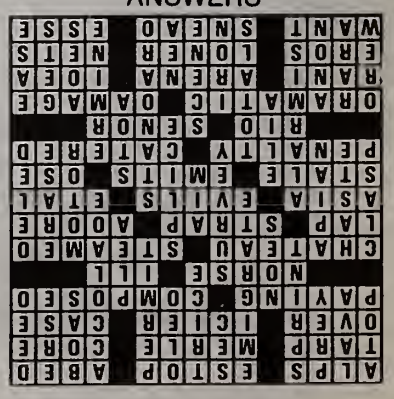
The cartoon is produced, according to Salazar, "usually the night before I have to pass it in to the newspaper." It is not a collaborative process; his ideas are his own. The standard that he holds himself up to is that each comic should make him laugh.

Salazar hopes to continue Kumquat Comics into the future. "I've tried to do it once a week, to keep pace and discipline myself." His latest cartoon, satirizing the high cost of living at FSC through the use of the game Monopoly, was his most difficult project to date. The board and the cards took him many hours to design, but he said it is the cartoon he is most proud of. Six or seven other Kumquat Comics have appeared this semester in the Strobe, and we will most likely see more of Salazar's work in the future.

Of course it isn't easy coming up with ideas for a comic strip and then translating the thoughts into pictures. Salazar, who has produced a fine, consistently well-crafted and humorous cartoon, said modestly, "I'd do more if I could draw better."



ANSWERS



Computer purchasing tips

by Donald M. DeMarsh
Contributing writer

This article is a continuation of the article entitled "Computer purchasing tips for students" in the November 17th issue of The Strobe.

The next big question you need to consider when looking into the computer market is, "How much trunk space will I need to carry my gear?" Of course, we're referring to the memory. This is where the computer puts the program and related data that you are currently running. It is not permanent storage. If you do not have sufficient memory, the system must keep moving parts of the program back and forth between your disk drive and the memory. This is very slow and you may not be able to run the program at all.

So how much do you need? First, MB stands for megabytes, one million bytes or the space it takes to put one million characters. 2MB may sound like a lot, but there are software packages that require 16MB of memory. 4MB is usually sufficient, but it is wise to get as much as you can afford. And second, ask how it is installed. It can come in 1MB or 4MB cards and you want the 4MB version as this makes it easier to add more memory later. The hard disk is the real trunk, but unlike the trunk of a car, you can get a hard disk as large as you want. How much space you need depends on what you use your computer for. Data base applications, software development, and sound storage need large amounts of disk space. Simple word processing does not. Like the memory, get as large a hard disk as you can afford, at least 80MB, because you do not want to run out of space on this drive.

The other storage devices are the 5.25" and 3.5" floppy drives. One of each of these is nice if you can afford them. The 3.5" disk is less susceptible to damage, holds more data and is now the standard on new machines. The older 5.25" floppy drives come in different configurations. If you buy a used machine, find out if the drive is and old 640kb or a newer 1.2MB drive. You may find that it is difficult to get software for the old style drives.

The next two items to consider on your computer shopping list are the mouse and the modem. For Windows applications, you need to have a mouse. Try several to find one that feels comfortable to you. A modem is actually an option although the newer packages are often including them. A modem allows you to connect your computer to the telephone line and dial into a wide range of services from bulletin boards to stock markets.

Finally the last requirement: a display adapter and monitor that are supported by Windows. This is the video display monitor and the hardware to run it. You must have one of each or you will be driving with your eyes closed. Video screens are rated by the number of scan lines and by the size of the smallest single dot that can be produced. The best screens are 1024 lines, non-interlaced (that is, the lines are scanned one after another, top to bottom, not odd lines and then even) SVGA (super Video graphics adapter) monitors with a .26 to .39 pitch. The smaller the pitch the better. If you plan to spend a lot of time with your machine, the SVGA monitor is what you want as it is easier on the eyes. Of course, there are lots of other screens and some are very good. Use the SVGA as a quality check if you're looking to buy a screen of lesser cost.

Like a car, computers come with a multitude of options. Some of these include: the printer, CD-ROM drive, sound card and speakers, and the modem/ fax card. Like a car salesman, your computer dealer will tell you that you need all the available options and gladly sell you the most expensive model on the lot. But ask yourself before you dish out the cash, "Do I need all these options?"

You do need a printer, but you may not have the need for a laser printer. True, they produce exceptional quality work. They are also very expensive. The mid range price for one of these babies is $700, and they use toner cartridges that cost in the $80 range. A less expensive, $200-$300, 24 pin dot matrix printer may do as well, and the ribbons cost only $5-$20. CD-ROM drives are also big on the market, but again, they may not be necessary for you. If you are into games, or reference material like an encyclopedia, you may want a CD-ROM drive. Sound is used more and more on games and specialty software. If you are looking at Multimedia, you will need both an audio card and speakers. You might want to look at the Macintosh line first for this application because the sound hardware is included in their base sticker price. Fax/ modem cards are needed if you want to communicate with the outside world. Get a combined card that is recommended for and supported by the software that you are purchasing. Find hardware that will both run your chosen software and fit your pocketbook.

And so there it is, everything you need to know to start cruising the PC market. It is now time to head to your local dealer and test drive a few models. Make your best deal, based on your personal needs for the computer. Your educated purchase will allow you to roam freely over today's information highway.

Professor Profile: Dr. Arnold Gordenstein

by Jason Koivu
Staff writer

Fitchburg State English professor, Dr. Arnold Gordenstein, has had a big chunk of his life influenced by the time he spent in Brazil. His initial visit to that country was when, on a Fullbright grant, Dr. Gordenstein spent a year teaching American Literature in Rio De Janeiro.

"I formed a lot of relationships there during that year, including one woman who became my wife."

He describes the atmosphere in Brazil during his first visit as "a revolutionary time. A lot of subversion was going on. Leftist guerrillas were trying to overthrow the military government there in 1970. They had a very active underground network", a network his wife was involved in. But being small groups of armed guerrillas spread out over the countryside, "they were easily suppressed by the dictatorship", said Gordenstein, who found himself siding with the subversives. "They were basically middle class college students or young people just out of school. They were revolutionary intellectuals and I was on their side, very much so."

Many of the subversives who got caught were tortured or killed. Those who didn't get caught escaped to Mexico.

But Gordenstein found the country intriguing enough to want to return, which he and his wife did four years later. Between 1973 and 1988 they lived in Brazil and raised a family of four. Dr. Gordenstein worked at a federal university assisting with the development of a highly regarded American studies graduate program there.

During this time and because of his experiences, Gordenstein began work on his first book. It's the story of an American who goes off to Brazil and meets up with a Brazilian friend, who has just joined the subversive movement. After falling in love with a female subversive, he must make the difficult choice of whether or not to join in their cause. Dr. Gordenstein has recently decided to change the ending of his book, but the final decision on how it will end has not been made.

The book's ties to his own life are obvious, but Gordenstein said, "It's fiction, based on personal experiences and those of people I got to know."

In 1988 the Gordensteins left Brazil because "the economy was falling apart and we also wanted to introduce our children to American middle schools in order to prepare them for American colleges." Their oldest child was about twelve years old at the time.

About five years ago Gordenstein moved his family to Boston, where they now live, and a year later he came to work in the English Department here at FSC.

Though he's a settled man now, travel has always been in Gordenstein's blood. "I'd travel now if I wasn't so poor!" laughed Gordenstein. As a student Gordenstein got the chance to see Europe as well as do a cross-country trip of the United States...on a freight train! It was after his freshman year at UMass, Amherst, that he decided to make the cross-country journey.

"I had to make some money, like every student. So I thought I'd combine it with a trip to the West Coast. I went to work at a meat packing plant in California. I made quite a bit of money, because I was working the night shift in a refrigerator and it was hard and cold." The job advertisement that he and a friend answered provided transportation to California, but gave them no help in returning home after the job was completed. They tried hitch hiking for days without luck and finally decided to try riding a freight train home.

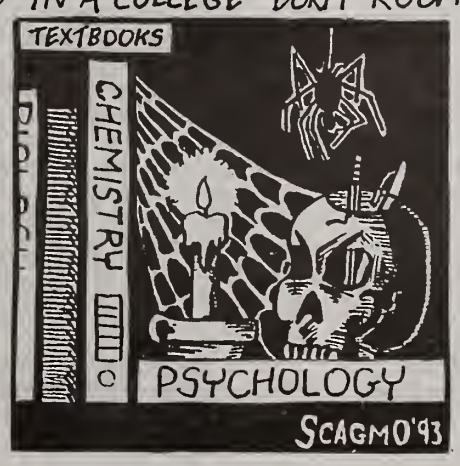
"We just jumped on a freight car and, once we were on, we got to know the hoboes who were riding the freights. They taught us how to tell where the cars were going, which were the leaving lines, which were the waiting lines, what kind of cars to ride in and what dangers there were. And there were dangers," said Gordenstein. He was taught not to ride in cars that held lumber, because when the train went up or down a hill the lumber would slide and could crush a person. They also learned that when riding in a coal car "not to ride up front near the locomotive, because when they go into tunnels the cinders come back and you get hot cinders on you." Gordenstein said they found out this information about the coal cars the hard way.

"It was a wonderful experience though," said Gordenstein.

photo by Eric Metzner

LIFE ON THE DARK SIDE: THINGS TYPICALLY FOUND IN A COLLEGE DORM ROOM

Distributed by Tribune Media Services



THE STROBE
FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

ERIC P. HELLWEG, Editor-in-Chief

KRISTI L. WIDBERG, Managing Editor

EDITORIAL STAFF
DEREK VALCOURT, News Editor
CRAIG CUCCHIARA, Features Editor
ROB HANEISEN, Opinion Editor
DANIELLE SULLIVAN, Arts & Ent. Editor
MICHAEL GORDON, Sports Editor
KRIS RUBERTI, Associate Editor
KAREN ST. LAURENT, Copy Editor
SEAN KENNEALLY, Copy Editor
JEN SCHNORRENBERG, Copy Editor
KELLI BOTTA, Copy Editor
ERIC METZNER, Photo Editor
PAULA FERAZZI, Photo Editor

JULIE M. OLSEN, Chief Production Manager

PRODUCTION STAFF
CHRIS RYAN, Production Assistant
SCOTT REMILLARD, Production Assistant
CHAD JOHNSON, Production Assistant
MARK EDWARDS, Production Assistant
DENNY MAK, Production Assistant
SCOTT GOMES, Production Assistant

OFFICE STAFF
JENNIFER COVE, Advertising Manager
MARILYN DUNCAN, Business Manager
ZIMRA PANITZ, Public Relations
DR. NANCY KELLY, Faculty Advisor

The Strobe is available in large print, braille, and on audio tape upon request.

Never do this at a job interview.

From The Editor's Desk...

Pressure and pressure release.

With seven classes and the stewardship of this newspaper, these are the main thrusts of my life. I'm either running around frantically trying to keep my head above water in my classes or desperately trying to forget about them. In a situation like this, any chance to relax and truly enjoy myself is greatly appreciated.

I give thanks that I was able to get away this past weekend and go to New York to attend the US premiere of a play. It offered me a glimpse at healthy and cultural recreation, a concept pretty alien in my circles at Fitchburg.

It reminded me that soon I will be entering "the real world"-no, I'm not trying out for the MTV show, I'm getting ready to graduate. I was also reminded of certain English teachers that have stressed to me the importance of taking this time we call college to culture myselfand to get out and explore the world.

I have decided that that is what college is all about. We are put into an institution where we are surrounded by people who have excelled in their fields, be they math or construction or literature. These instructors offer us glimpses at their lives and their experiences, the culmination of which has allowed them to be considered leaders. The classroom experience is but the roots of the entire college experience.

If you think you have gotten a college education because you just went to your classes, regardless of how you did, you are mistaken and are denying yourself a true education.

The goals of these instructors, in the short term, indeed, is for us to do well in their classes. In the long run, however, their goal is for us to take the knowledge we have acquired in their classrooms and apply it in other, more remote areas of our lives.

With the exception of a few classes by said English teachers, I have achieved more soulful enlightenment and a greater knowledge of myself and where I stand in this world by walking these streets listening to Jane's Addiction and Tom Waits. I include this as a key part of my college education. I recall a time I was walking home and I spotted a spider's web that was anchored on a street sign and was vainly being blown across Pearl Street, most likely never to make it to the other side. I saw it as a metaphor for any attempt someone makes in beginning something new (i.e. preparing for the real world):: you never know where you'll end up or if you'll make it. You need to make the leap of faith. I credit the education I've received for allowing me that insight.

The crux of this piece is to stress the need to get out and explore and expand yourself while you can (now), applying the information received in the classroom to areas whereyou never thought applicable. If you do, you'll soon find out that almost every situation is a classroom, some of which you will be the student, and others, the teacher.

I've been away from home under the guise of "school" for six years now. A year and half was spent working, out of the classroom. As I look back, I realize indeed how little time we have here, and how important it is to get out and taste the world that surrounds us. Before long, we will be on the outside, looking in.

Letter to the Editor

by Toni Manifiosa
Contributing writer

Mark Hubert is right. I am writing in response to his article "Special Fees; Time to Eliminate the Temporary Tax". We are being taken advantage of at FSC.

Both my father and mother were in college during the 1960s and 1970s, and they have talked about how students, during those years, made college administrators pay attention to them. Relevancy was the catch-word then.

Today, you and I sit back and do nothing. Figure-head administrators, in their plush offices, make decisions without regard as to how they will affect the students. And we let them get away with it!

What is needed at FSC is a little iron in the backbone of students. Refuse to continue paying the temporary fee! Make the college listen to you. Without you, there would be no college. There would be no students to teach, no money to pay salaries, etc.

Can we do this? You bet your DAKA card we can! Do we have the guts and stamina to force the College to listen to us? Only students can determine this.

As I See It

by Mark Hubert
Staff writer

Who will lead us into the twenty-first century? It is not generally known, but President Mara has informed his Board of Trustees, and his top advisors, of his intention to retire, perhaps in 1994, or possibly 1995.

Where does that leave FSC? It has the task of finding a replacement for the top position at the college. It will not be an easy job. Hopefully, it will be a careful, soul-searching endeavor.

I take it upon myself to offer some recommendations in this regard.

1) Make it a nationwide search for the best possible replacement. Please! No more promotion from within. That's what has occurred in the selection of the last two presidents. FSC needs new blood - someone from the outside; someone with new ideas and a vigorous drive.

2) Charge the new chief executive with the task of instituting a complete curriculum study. There is a need for a thorough, extensive, and detailed examination of all course and degree offerings. This should not be attempted using only members of the faculty; there would be too much "turf protection". There should be outside authorities brought in to lead and guide this curriculum planning.

3) Be prepared to provide the funds required to establish a new curriculum. And understand that there will be some hard decisions to be made. Some current members of faculty will not be able to adapt to the required changes.

There are and have been some feeble attempts at bringing the college into modern times. (The Mission Statement Study; The Accreditation Self-study, etc.) But much more than these meager attempts are required.

This need to study where the college is and should be going is not limited to FSC. Practically every institution of higher education in the U.S. is undergoing such studies. (Harvard, Yale, UCLA, etc.) Surely, if these institutions feel the need to study and plan for the future, doesn't FSC?

Registration conflict

by Diane Devitt
Contributing writer

"It's that time again." I used to hate when my mother would say that to me. Every morning she would wake me with that expression, every morning, I'm not kidding. Do you know how annoying that is?

Annoying is what I would like to address. Annoyed is what I felt when I opened my mailbox and the newspaper of "Official Schedule of Classes" poked out from between all the junk mail. "It's that time again" is what came to mind.

It brought with it a feeling of dread. You finally get used to your schedule when it's time to choose a new one. It's taken me this long to remember what classroom I go to on what day. How many classes do I have on this day? What can I skip? The newspaper shattered all those simple questions and left us with: what requirements do I have to fill? How many credits do I need next semester? When can I meet with my advisor? Will I get all my classes?

It's encouraging; it signifies the semester is half over. That sheds light on the idea of mid-terms, and finals are just around the corner. Everything must be wrapped up so you can do it all again. How does this feel? Annoying, it's a vicious cycle.

On top of all the stress you try to create a schedule that doesn't interfere with your social life. This is an acquired talent. The ideal line-up from what I could gather would include classes beginning at ten-thirty and ending no later than two-thirty. Fridays, of course, would be personal days. It's a rarity to obtain your perfect schedule so don't be disappointed if you don't even come close. I think the registrar's office plans it that way. They must have a secret handbook that tells them which students can't have which class for fear they might enjoy it. If you need a red card for every class, forget it; you're doomed. You'll be here for at least seven years.

When your appointed time arrived, you proceeded to McKay. You sat patiently with your fingers crossed, prayed there was no conflict that would entail the quest for a red card. If there was, you had only a few moments to insert your second choice. If that was unattainable I hope you wiped your tears, took the classes you managed to get, tucked your trusty newspaper under your arm and hit the dusty trail to red card Hell.

Nobody went to register on the day they were scheduled to, did they? Weren't made aware of computer failure? Did you blow off classes to stand there and find out you were supposed to come the next day? Don't be embarrassed; it wasn't widely broadcasted. Nice of them to let us all in on the little secret. Organization at Fitchburg State is obviously a priority.

Seniors: this was the last time you ever had to do this. Frame your last newspaper as a reminder. You can tell your grandchildren about the horrors. Everyone else: don't despair. Think of this as practice to improve your talent for creating the perfect schedule.

SPRING BREAK '94

SELL TRIPS, EARN CASH & GO FREE!!!

Student Travel Services is now hiring campus reps.

CALL 1-800-648-4849

$$ Ovum and Sperm $$

by Danielle Sullivan
Strobe staff

Recently a friend of mine, let's call her Katie, found a way to defer her growing credit debt and college tuition. She is donating her ovum to a fertility clinic for $1500.

When she first told me this I couldn't believe it. $1500! I had always been jealous of the ease with which men could make money by donating sperm. Heck, even Beavis and Butthead did it. But now, I hear that a woman can donate her eggs for a much larger sum of money than what men receive. "How liberating!" I first thought. Then Katie explained what the procedure involved.

Although these facts may be a little fuzzy, because I am writing from memory, here's the gist of it:

First, there is a rigorous screening process. This involves a questionnaire ranging from your height and weight to your hair color to whether or not you've ever had acne. Might as well cancel yourself out if there is diabetes or cancer in your family as well. There is also a lot of blood testing for diseases and genetic defects.

Next, come the hormone shots. You must receive these shots for one week prior to the removal procedure and one week after. These hormones enable the body to produce the eggs that will replace those taken.

The procedure itself is similar to an abortion. The eggs are sucked out of the ovaries with a vacuum that is inserted in the woman's vagina. It involves some pain and cramping for the donator. No wonder women are paid more than men.

Additional donations, which can be done about every six months, will not require as much testing as the initial donation. This will make it easier and quicker the second time around.

I asked Katie her reasons for doing this. She is a college student who is self-supporting and at this point, living on loans and credit cards. Her main reason for donating was the financial relief it would bring her. She also liked the idea of enabling an infertile couple to have children.

Here's the controversial part - Katie's eggs might not be used for infertile couples, but for genetic experiments, possibly in the field of eugenics, which deals with human embryo cloning - a scary enough subject. It is also not a popular issue with many religious organizations that believe procreation should be between a loving married couple. Anything else, they argue, would be unnatural. These issues can also be applied to sperm donation.

Another friend pointed something out to me when I approached her with the topic of egg donation. If you were to do this, you would be giving up a part of your body, and you might be creating and giving life to someone you will never see. For men and women alike, this may not seem like such a bad thing, but rather heroic, until you realize that you are being paid for it. You have now turned yourself into a human commodity. Also, what of the embryos that might be formed from your tissue and then discarded when an experiment fails?

I am not condemning egg or sperm donation, nor am I advocating it. I am just raising questions about an issue that I believe will soon become very controversial with all of the advances in genetics today. One also has to ponder whether we will take these experiments too far, or in the case of cloning, have we already.

Cloning: a question of science and nature

by Rob Haneisen
Strobe staff

Mary and Joe have been cohabitating together for two years, the minimum mandatory time before a mated pair can apply for possession of a fertilized embryo. Mary and Joe have passed their efficiency and stability tests, used to judge what type of environment they could offer a prospective child. Mary's uterus has been labeled as receptive, so the happy couple take a trip to their local fertility clinic to select their embryo.

Years ago, Mary and Joe were forbidden to have children by government regulations because Joe did not reach the height requirement and Mary had too much acne during her adolescent years. Wanting a genetically perfect child, Mary and Joe flipped through the glossy catalog of smiling children whose pictures ran along side a table of figures including predicted successes, physical ability, and intellectual capacity.

Whoa! Wait just a minute! This is not happening yet, but with the technological advances in the area of human embryo cloning the scenario presented above could be the future of creating a family. It could be as easy as take out Chinese.

Science is not yet capable of cloning adult human beings, this fanciful theory still belongs in science fiction films. What science can now do is clone a human embryo. The process involves mixing an egg and sperm in a Petri dish. Sometimes, an egg will be fertilized by more than one sperm, an abnormal condition, which then causes the embryo to divide into two during the first stage of development. The two are separated, their natural coatings are removed and replaced by a synthetic coating.

In essence, the result is identical twins. Science has found a way to duplicate this process, so actually you end up having infinite twins. Sounds neat, huh? Here are some moral and ethical problems created by this neat discovery.

A family could have a group of cloned embryos frozen and then thaw them out when it is the proper time to raise them. The family could have one child, then have its identical twin three or four years later, and then another twin three or four more years later. Now that's what I call planned parenthood. But what happens to the embryos they decide not to use, or if they decide that two children are enough and the remaining cradle of embryos may be discarded?

Another wonder of science is the possibility that a woman could give birth to her own twin. If her parents still had frozen cloned embryos of her, she could simply thaw one out, much like a microwave pizza, and have her genetically identical embryo of herself implanted in her uterus.

In a Time/CNN poll, an overwhelming 75 percent of Americans felt that cloning humans was wrong. The original intent of this experiment was to increase the chances of having a baby for couples having trouble conceiving a child. In vitro fertilization, or test tube baby making, has allowed many couples who thought they were sterile to have children. "A woman with only one embryo has about a 10% to 20% chance of getting pregnant through in vitro fertilization." (Elmer-Dewitt, Phillip, Time, 11/8/93; p.66) Cloning increases the chances by creating several healthy embryos to be implanted.

The problem with cloning, and why I am against it, is the opportunity for corruption. What is to stop certain medical corporations from creating a bunch of embryos for the sole purpose of being raised for spare parts for when other babies get sick? I would in no way support the creation of these meat puppets.

In the farming industry, animal embryos are already cloned and implanted in surrogate mothers. With selective breeding, farmers are able to choose the livestock with the most desirable traits. they can breed the meatiest steer, the cow that produces the most milk, or the sheep with the finest wool. What is to stop society from producing a gene pool filled only with embryos with socially desirable traits?

The controversy with human embryo cloning goes on and on. I am all for the advancement of science, but scientists should not attempt to play God. In the search for perfection, science has just gone too far. Human beings are not livestock.

As for Mary and Joe, I recommend a bottle of wine, candle light, soft, serene music, and a firm mattress. Let nature take its course.

Fortune teller opposed for lowering moral standards

by Peter Braun
Contributing writer

In the three years I have attended Fitchburg State College I have enjoyed the varied activities that have appeared in G-Lobby. It is a pleasure to see young students raising monies for their sororities and fraternities. To see non-traditional students helping their cause is also welcome. Other groups have sold tickets to New York City for shopping sprees over the holidays. Still others have sold tickets to Boston Bruins or Celtics games. The Human Services Club raises money for class trips. I could go on and on.

On Tuesday, November 16, I had a very hard time getting through the G-Lobby, but I didn't see the reason immediately. I had just been in the commuter cafe having lunch. I saw a lady dressed up like a gypsy but paid little attention to her. Upon returning to G-Lobby and trying to get through the crowd I was appalled to see a fortune teller at Fitchburg State. I immediately went to the S.G.A. office to voice a complaint. I was laughed at and reminded that my $35.00 fee for student services was being put to good use. I was told that this was just good "fun". They didn't know how much was used for each service provided by the S.G.A. but knew some of my money was used to sponsor this person. I was also informed that the next meeting of the S.G.A. was Monday the 22nd of November. I could attend that meeting to voice my complaint in person or write a letter to the Programs Committee.

I believe that most college students make intelligent choices about their activities. I also know that most things we do as young adults start by being "just fun", such as drinking, smoking, casual use of sex and drugs. I also believe "Fortune Telling" can be one of these things. But, when an institution of higher education promotes these activities, they become acceptable. This is wrong.

We push drug abuse education, AIDS awareness, and smoking cessation. Why do we encourage occult practices, such as fortune telling which is a form of witchcraft, which can lead to activities which are just as harmful to the human mind as these other things are to the human body. "Fortune Telling" is dabbling in the occult. This is against the high moral standards that we should be trying to instill in our youth. It is also against the principles of this college if in fact the college discourages unsafe behaviors.

I am opposed to this activity taking place on campus. I do not know if there are others on campus who feel as strongly about this matter, but I feel I must make my complaint public in the hopes that this activity will not take place again. I hope the S.G.A. will not allow this or any similar activity to ever take place on campus again.

The Most Office, Inc.

Your Professional and Home Office

115 Whalon St.(South St) Fitchburg 01420
(Across from McDonalds) 508-342-0202

Do you need computer time, but can't get to one when you need to? We have many programs for a variety of uses. Just give us a call to schedule time.

PC Computer Time Rental
- Lotus 1-2-3 Spreadsheet
- Microsoft Word - Word Processing
- Microsoft Powerpoint Graphics
- Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet
- WordPerfect Word Processing
- WordPerfect Presentations
- Page Plus Desktop Publishing
- Quattro Pro Spreadsheet

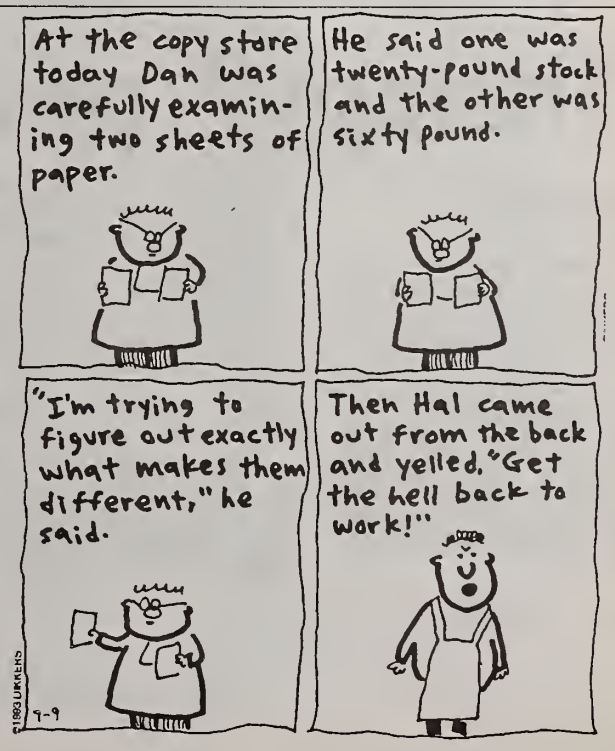
Create Your Own:
- RESUMES
- NEWSLETTERS
- TERM PAPERS
- THESIS'
- FLYERS
- MAILERS
- LABELS
- ETCETERA

UPS AUTHORIZED SHIPPING OUTLET

The Most Office, Inc.
15% OFF EACH HOUR OF PC COMPUTER TIME RENTAL IBM COMPATIBLE
LIMIT 1 COUPON PER VISIT
EXPIRES MAY 1994

The Most Office, Inc.
$1.00 OFF UPS SHIPMENT
LIMIT 1 COUPON PER VISIT
NOT VALID DEC 1993 EXPIRES MAY 1994

Jim's Journal by Jim



Landolphi educates through humor

by Gina Procopio
Staff writer

Are you hot, sexy, and safer?

That was the question on educator and comedienne Suzi Landolphi's lips in Percival Auditorium on November 18. The jokes this night were meant not only to entertain the sold-out auditorium, but also to be informative on current sexual issues.

This program was organized by John Pestana, the RD of the New Halls along with Amy Clayton, Sue Edgerly, and Heather Fay. Special thanks is also given to those who contributed financial support, including Residence Life, Campus Center, AIDS Peer Educators, Health Services, Smart Choices, International Educators and each other the residence hall councils.

The most serious topic that Landolphi wanted to educate the students of FSC about was AIDS. The audience was reminded that before the existence of AIDS there were 35 other sexually transmitted diseases. Just like the other sexual diseases, a sexually active person must be aware and cautious when it comes to the AIDS virus. This means education and the clearing of the misconceptions of the so-called "high risk" groups of AIDS. When labels like this one are affixed to people, problems arise and ignorance results. The groups thought to be in the greatest danger of the virus were homosexual males, bisexual males, and IV drug users. However, the problem then stems from a person thinking that if they do not fall into one of these categories they are safe. This isn't the case.

A person does not get the AIDS virus from solely being a gay man or belonging to one of the other groups. The danger of getting this disease comes from being involved in risky behaviors. What sort of things are risky? Well, if any person of any race, gender or sexual orientation engages in any activity like Landolphi's stereotypical "stud man", they are at risk. A person who engages in sexual activity with many different partners has more chances to be infected. Landolphi also stressed that AIDS can not be passed through "casual contact." In other words, you can't get AIDS from coming in contact with sweat, mucus, or tears.

The comedienne/educator advised not only on sexual issues but on social ones as well. Landolphi conveyed that such beliefs as "all gay men are effeminate" are misconstrued. Stereotypes result from "one group saying something about another group to make themselves feel better." Practices like these need to be abandoned so that everyone in a society has "self-worth" and can get along, Landolphi said.

Landolphi also addressed the difference between "safe" sex and "safer" sex. According to her, "safe" sex involves one participant. On the other hand, "safer" sex involves two persons who are substance free, meaning uninfluenced by either drugs or alcohol. Another condition for safer sex is that both people have to consent. If either person is unsure about the act, it doesn't count. Landolphi expressed that if both partners are not ready to say "Yes, I'm ready", they aren't. There are no maybes ever involved, and no always mean no.

The show also presented from a witty point of view some of societies hand-ups. Why is it, for example, that when you are in nursery school you are more comfortable with your body than when you are an adult? This shouldn't be the case. As adults, Landolphi explained that we should be aware that our bodies are our own and that there is nothing to feel inhibited about. Why is it that men are taught that their sex organs are better than female ones? Landolphi feels that one step to making the sexes truly equal is to clear these inhibitions.

There are three things that all intimate people should take part in: communication, honesty and trust. To demonstrate the trust that two people would hold for each other, Landolphi did a balancing act with a member of the audience. In order to pull off the act, both people had to listen and trust one another. If these things didn't happen, someone could have gotten hurt, just like in real life.

The final part of the show was to demonstrate that may man can be safe and wear a condom. With the help of two good sports, Landolphi stretched an ordinary condom completely over one of the participant's heads. Sorry, guys, there is no such thing as too big.

photo by Paula Ferazzi
Landolphi and helpers stretch a condom over volunteer's head.

The show left its audience howling with laughter at Suzi Landolphi's sexual innuedos, one-liners, and role playing with audience participants. The antics of Suzi Landolphi kept the show sensationally humorous but with a surfacing of important issues about which all members of the human race need to be informed.

Storyteller Alicia Quintano spins tales at Coffeehouse. photo by Paula Ferazzi

Storyteller makes a unique coffeehouse

by Danielle Sullivan
Strobe staff

A refreshingly different coffeehouse took place in the Fitchburg State College Pub on November 14. Instead of the usual solo acoustic guitar performance, the Programs Committee managed to book "Storyteller" Alicia Quintano.

As an actress and writer, Quintano has found the balance between her two loves and created this genre of performing art. With an incredible energy and strong persona she draws the audience in while she tells her stories. They are of her life, emotions, relationships and the continuing search for self.

While listening to all of the original anectodes of Quintano's life, I admired her ability to identify certain emotions that she was feeling during her relationships, whether they involved men, friends or her family. She was also able to point out patterns in her life that not everyone can recognize on their own. Using irony and sarcasm for comic relief, Quintano represented someone who has developed a clear and healthy outlook on herself after a lifetime of chaos.

I truly enjoyed her performance and felt angry and embarrassed when she was interrupted twice by a group of students who were talking and laughing so loud that Quintano couldn't be heard. It must have been discouraging to have to compete with such rude people for attention. The rest of the audience, unlike these people, were there to enjoy the storytelling, and the rude ones should have taken their unruly conversations into the Commuter Cafe.

Quintano handled her obnoxious competition gracefully however, and finished up the night with a half hour monologue dealing with a turning point in her life ten years ago when she fell in love with her life partner, Jack. Still together, Quintano and Jack travel the United States in a car to all of her booked performances. Throughout her last story she kept glancing with a smile to an older man in the back of the Pub. There was love in her eyes, and most of all, happiness.

Therapy? provides no relief

by Rob Haneisen
Strobe staff

Never, I repeat, never have I ever been so unimpressed by a load of crap that in no way whatsoever deserved to be put on CD. Therapy? has released a six song EP, or more accurately a group of six idiotic passages, to follow up their moderately successful debut album Nurse. This waste of time entitled Hats Off to the Insane probably derives its title from anyone stupid enough to purchase this CD.

Musically, they entirely rip off the likes of Iron Maiden and Helmet. With a sound mixture like this, one would expect a powerful and energetic display of talent. Somehow, Therapy? has found a way of taking this combination of music and make it sound like a bunch of insecure buffoons.

If this EP was a joke about anger and hate, then it would prove its point. Instead, this band wants to be taken seriously from the material it has offered. How this is possible with a vocalist that sounds like Weird Al Yankovich is beyond me.

Let's take a look at some of this band's lyrics. From the song, if you even want to give it that much credit, "Screamager", we have such lovely compositions like, "Screw that, forget about that / I don't wanna hear about anything like that." And from the equally dumb "Totally Random Man" the vocalist, who left his name out of the CD jacket probably attempting to save what little self-respect he still has, tries to hiss his way through an Alice Cooper imitation spewing such filth as "I hate everyone but you / Sometimes I even hate you too."

If I wanted to completely repulse any more readers of this article, I could print the entire lyric sheet, but even that would be too painful because I would have to take the time to read over all the lyrics and then transcribe them onto paper.

If you really want to waste some time, listen to this CD. If you have just failed all of your mid-terms, your girlfriend left you for your best friend, your dog got hit by a moving van, and if your house burned down you would still have more going for you than this bunch of losers.

Art Gallery features Deborah Muirhead

by Danielle Sullivan
Strobe staff

There is a new art exhibit being shown in the Campus Center Art Gallery. Deborah Muirhead is the artist featured this month and fourteen of her paintings will be on exhibit until December 20.

Muirhead has been an art teacher at the University of Connecticut for the past thirteen years. Her paintings are somber and shadowy, mainly of gray tones. In her artist's statement, Muirhead writes, "My work is about my continued interest in the ideas of elegy, memory and mystery." She expresses these "sensations" by incorporating subtle color and the illusion of light.

In order for the viewer to recognize certain aspects of her paintings, they must stare a little longer and patiently wait for the colors and shrouded images to appear.

The pieces do not have the titles next to them, so the viewer can discern for themselves the meaning that is incorporated into Muirhead's artwork. Particularly engaging is "Nocturne" in which a soft and subtle image of a four poster bed emerges. Using thin glazes of paint in various colors, Muirhead tries to create an ephemeral presence.

Although this exhibit may seem a little drab compared to previous ones, give it a chance. The longer you look, the more you will take away.

Paintings by Deborah Muirhead are displayed in FSC art gallery. photo by Paula Ferazzi

Nirvana, Breeders slam Wallace

by Eric Hellweg
Strobe staff

Nirvana, that nice group of young men from Seattle, and The Breeders, that nice group of mostly girls played a sold-out show at The Wallace Civic Center in Fitchburg on November 12.

Expectations were high of both bands, both brandishing high selling, critically acclaimed new albums. Fans left the auditorium satisfied, their expectations met and maybe even surpassed.

This reporter had some business to attend to, and missed the first band, Half Chinese, but what was gathered, I had actually missed nothing. Not altogether familiar with The Breeders, I was eager to see what the critical buzz was all about. The quartet took the stage and proceeded to blow the capacity crowd away, myself included.

I was standing on the floor, just behind the perimeter of the "mosh pit", where I felt comfortable observing the sociological phenomenon that is a rock concert. It was quite an amazing experience hearing such gut-wrenching, and frankly, testosterone driven music being produced by a group of women. Definitely something I hadn't experienced before, and it was quite erotic. Kim Deal can sing me a song anytime.

The only time the band faltered was during its rendition of "Happiness is a Warm Gun", originally done by The Beatles. The Breeders' version was too spliced with too many staccato starts and stops to maintain the singularity of the song. Kudos for the attempt, however.

Nirvana took the stage after a brief intermission during which the lead singer, Kurt Cobain bumped into a group of friends of mine and he appeared, well, shall we say, under the weather? This aside, the band was tight from the get go, playing selections from their three releases, Bleach, Nevermind, and most recently, In Utero. Fun was poked at the podunkish locale ("Hello Fitchbuuuuuurg!", "People from Fitchburg are Fitchburgers!"), but the overly-appreciative crowd certainly gave them rapt attention.

Nirvana's formula for musical success is Dynamics=Selling Records. Dynamics are the ups and downs within a song. Look at all of their hit songs, all contain parts that are hard and parts that are soft, from the subtle verse structure in "Smells Like Teen Spirit" to the ensuing squalor of its chorus. The band definitely milked this formula, and towards the end of the show, it grew tiresome, their songs; predictable.

I mentioned earlier the sociological phenomenon that is a rock concert. It was intriguing to watch the crowd that moshed furiously to such socially pertinent lyrics as "Teen angst has served me well/ Now I'm bored and old" dance just as intently to lyrics like "I have bad posture," or simply, "Cherry-flavored antacid". Ah...the trappings of appealing to 15 year olds.

Nirvana handled its new-found success well, singling out a male member of the audience that was apparently fondling girls, calling him a few things that are unprintable in a family newspaper such as The Strobe, and threatening to have him beat up by one of their many goons hired solely for that purpose. Revenge on all the jocks that tormented the band in high school? Most likely.

So, while Nirvana's formula wore thin by the show's end, in all it was a pertinent evening of two nationally prominent acts playing in our backyard. Both bands played well within their self-imposed limits, and both are bands I'd recommend seeing next time they come around.

At the flicks

'Robocop 3' should have remained on the shelf

by Shawn Sullivan
Staff writer

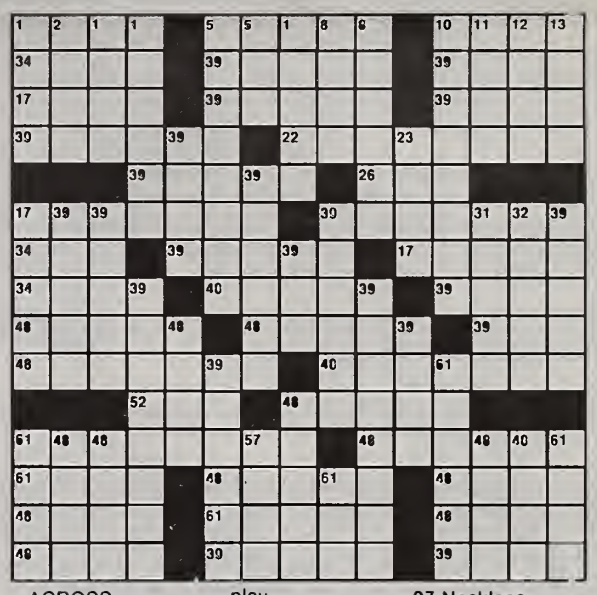
"Robocop 3"
rated PG13: profanity, violence
starring Robert John Burke, Nancy Allen, Rip Torn
*
(out of four)

Without a razor sharp satiric edge to cut into their violent storylines, the "Robocop" movies either live or die on the action sequences that they beat their audiences over the head with. However, without those action sequences, Robocop begins to look silly, as though he is a steroid-induced C3PO in dire need of having his diaper changed. 1990's "Robocop 2" realized this shaky principle, and cheerfully threw the original's philosophical and tragic core aside, and put mortifying sadism and gore in its place. That first sequel to the 1987 smash hit was senselessly noisy and disgusting, but action lovers were in no way disappointed. They will be with "Robocop 3", a rusty vehicle that should have remained on Orion Studio's condemned shelves.

In the original "Robocop", Peter Weller played Alex Murphy, a family man and police officer who was brutally murdered by the film's deliciously evil villains. OCP, a relentless corporation obsessed with governing the city of Detroit, used the remains of Murphy's body to fulfill the human element in their new crime fighting experiment: Robocop, a half man, half robot programmed to fight city crime with uncompromising fervor. An element of tragedy was given to Robocop because some of Murphy's brain tissue remained alive and active within the metal helmet he wore, and the man portion of the robot was constantly tortured by memories of his past.

The plot of Part 3, if you care: The city of Detroit remains under the oppression of the OCP corporation, and a small band of rebels form to defeat them. Gee. I just wrote the synopsis that will appear in TV Guide when this movie has its network premiere some time next month. Robocop figures into this paper thin plot somewhere, but his role as hero is limited. Yes, he gets to shoot big guns and withstand various modes of torture, but overall he only serves the purpose of being the rebel force's most prized weapon. And when Robocop is knocked out of commission for half of the movie and does not appear on screen for the longest time, the band of street rebels do just fine without him. At least it appears that way, given this movie's lack of suspense and inventive action.

"Robocop 3" was made long ago during the summer of 1990. Orion Pictures wasn't able to release it for the usual reasons that have plagued that studio, and as a result, this third installment aged on the shelf for three years until it was released earlier this month. What became of that postponement was anything but a fine wine: "Robocop 3" has the dull afterglow of a time capsule containing action thriller elements that went the way of the Dodo years ago. As for the Robocop character itself, he's still operating under the four directives that have controlled him for the past six years. They go something like this: 1) Honor the public's trust; 2) Protect the innocent; 3) Uphold the law; and 4) Cannot arrest an OCP officer. I'd like to propose a fifth directive: Stop Making No-Brainer Sequels.



ACROSS
1 High mountains
5 Halt by legal means
10 Resting
14 Protective cover
15 Blackbird
16 Center
17 Completed
18 More frigid
19 Carton
20 Footing the bill
22 Serene
24 Oslo natives
26 Under the weather
27 Country home
30 Vaporized
34 Fold over
35 Thin leather belt
37 Venerate
38 Continent
40 Wicked works
42 Lat. abbr.
43 Hackneyed
45 Spews
47 Carbohydrate: suff.
48 Fee for wrongdoing
50 Provided party food
52 — Grande
53 Mex. title
54 Like a powerful play
58 Injure
62 Indian princess
63 Place for sports
65 Productive thought
66 God of love
67 Private person
68 Tennis needs
69 Desire
70 Great name in golf
71 Being

DOWN
1 Above
2 Volcanic product
3 Quarry
4 Run
5 Move to another country
6 Champagne word
7 Very short time
8 Dairy item
9 Allow
10 Praise
11 Hugging snakes
12 Gaelic
13 Transfer document
21 Negative votes
23 Entreaty
25 Poll
27 Necklace fastener
28 Speed
29 Of bees
30 Fit together
31 Engine
32 Rub out
33 Struck out
36 Goal
39 One causing fright
41 Normal course
44 Eng. essayist
46 Gr. portico
49 Sums up
51 Luxury fur
53 Play section
54 Sketched
55 — avis
56 Soon
57 Golf club
59 Fruit beverages
60 Obtains
61 Comfort
64 Tchrs. gp.

Answers on page 4

Announcements

Audio compact discs are available in the library for student use. These discs are listed in the OPAC -Online public access catalogs - computers located in the middle of the first floor of the library. These discs are arranged by call number and are available at the Circulation Desk. There is a compact disc player on the 3rd floor and headphones are needed which are also available at the Circulation Desk. Audio compact discs can be checked out for four weeks so be sure to bring your FSC I.D. card.

Counseling Services will be offering several groups and workshops this semester. These include:

- Adult Children of Alcoholics Beginner's Group, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 in B16.
- Adult Child of Alcoholics Therapy Group, please call X3152 for more information.
- Past Sexual Trauma Group will be offered at two different times. Please call X3152 for more information.
- Relationships Group, Thursdays, 3:30-5:00, in B26/27.
- Meditation Group, Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00, in B26/27.
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and People Questioning Their Sexual Identity Group, please call X3152 for more information.

- Potential groups for the future will focus on eating disorders and coping with loss. If interested in attending such groups, students should contact Counseling Services.

Come join us to share, learn and grow together. For more information, call x3152, or stop by the Counseling Services Office on the 3rd floor of the Hammond Building between 2:00-3:00.

The Newman Center and Chapel Schedule of Services:
Sunday Mass - 11 am
Monday mass - 8 pm
Tuesday Eucharistic Service - 4:30 pm
Wednesday Night Prayer - 4:30 pm
Long Weekends - NO Sunday Mass
Holy Days - 4:30 pm

Sacrament of Penance:
Monday - 7:30 pm

Students with Disabilities Peer Support Group Meeting. All are welcome. Let's talk. Every Tuesdays 6:00 pm G-06.

Poets. Writers, Photographers and Artists...Schimshaw 94 announces a call for submissions of Poetry, Fiction, Photography and Artwork (Black and White). Send all literary submissions to Zimra Panitz (Campus Mail). Bring all Artwork/Photography to Sandra Perkins, Communications/ Media Secretary, Rm 320. All submissions must have the following information: Name, Box Number, Major, Year of Graduation, Title (Literary Submissions) and Media (Artwork/Photography). Deadline is December 10.

The Winter Wonderland Semi Formal will be held on December 3, at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Fitchburg. Tickets are $20 per person, $35 per couple (lowest price in years!) and can be purchased in G-Lobby between November 15-30. Music will be by Rythmic Wave DJs, there will be dinner and drinks, Door prizes, and a free gift.

Wanted: A treasurer for the Class of 1995. If interested, please send a letter of intent to the Class of 1995 mailbox 6714.

On November 30, there will be free pizza as well as NHL Bruins vs. Quebec. 21+ in pub.

Discussion groups for the Human Services Club are held on the Wednesdays ited the club meetings. The're held in the Commuter Cafe at 3:30pm. The group discusses classes, practicums, internships, and related subjects. Meetings are held in P1. Anyone who is planning to attend the discussion group is asked toleave their name and mailbox number in Joyce Aucoin's mailbox, # 1196 by 3:00 pm the the Wednesday that the group is meeting.

For Women's History Month, an essay contest is being held. There are two categories: 1) an essay on women's issues or 2) a research paper on women's issues, including a historical perspective. There is a fifty dollar prize for each category. The winners will present their papers at a special reception on march 22, 1993. The deadline for receipt of papers is January 23, 1992. Please submit four copies of your writing to box 5130. Do not put your name on your essay or paper. Please provide a separate cover sheet with your name, address and phone number. Sponsored by the Social Science Department.

Career Services presents FSC Alumni in a Pizza Panel. The topic is Careers for Economics Majors. It is hosted by Professor Caroline Murphy on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:00 pm in Miller Oval.

Career Services is offering a GRE Test Preparation Workshop on Wednesday, December 1 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in Percival 101. This workshop is led by representatvies from the Stanley Kaplan Educational Center. Please sign up in advance by calling Career Services at ext. 3151.

PERSONALS

Frank,
Declare a major or get a job at Sunoco!

Franco come mucho.

Hey K-
Want an intimate encounter?
Guess who

To the men of 133 Cedar:
Thank God for your hospitality!
-your 5th roommate

To the whole gang:
You are the best bunch of friends a person could have!
Love, Katty-O

Sunshine,
Where are the marshmellows?
The Candles?
Love always, Peanut

Hey R-man,
Too many nosey friends can ruin a good thing.
Yours in Trust, L.

175 collects Barbie dolls.

MISSING - Governor, 3 month old, boxer, gold, 25 pounds, stupid lg, ugly and doesn't know its own name. Reward free keg cup. 175 Highland

Flegle, you have a sever acne problem on your back.
Your friend, Matt K.

What do you mean?
S-

Tacy P stuffs fabric softeners in her sweater

Gnu,
Thanks for moving out to 96.
Love, 165

Tracy at 96,
Drinks MP Love Dan Chans

EB 175
I hear you like blow bubbles in fish bowls.
96

Danielle, I love when youinitiate anything!
Me

Jimmy Mac Have you peed the bed lately.

Steve, Losa!

Fellow Vikings,
Todd Shea (MVP) The mile shakemaker

Hey Mano, Subu, Sree, et.al.
What's up, sweeties?!
luv Kris

Sherrie,
Slow down. Brian only has so many friends left.
Luv Nicole + Alison

Fellow students,
I'm doing the solo acoustic thing at Tony's Restaurant/lounge, MainST. Ayer on Thursday nights, 7:30 pm. Stop in for a drink.
Dave Gaudet

Tangerine + Pal-
Can I get a raincheck on the "pretty drive"? I'll show you guys a ciool place.
-E

What are you trying to say?
S-

To all my friends - Hola!
And: Little Bear luvcs Goof Bear.
Ok I love you. Buh Bye!

T-
There is a McDonald's in mattapan
You know who

Fitshace, Steeple Jaccks, Sandal furnace, Noun.
:How we needs Hot?!"x! chicks.
Swifty

Jimmy Mac-
Is your mattress dry yet?

Steph,
Keep it in your pants.
Darron

Steph,
Does it have a loop?
Dough

Krust,
What-are you expecting a flood?
Nice Pants!! Ha-Ha

Hey Kev.
What the heck happened to your sweater?
Willy
P.S. I have a key chain for sale

Hi, everyone.

J.P. - Can I run my fingers through your hair?! Is it real?
Love, your admirers from Herlihy

Yo! Pam + O! Y'all are acting up! Flip-Flops rule! the Phillie. And J.C. - it was good for me! Rheefus

Hey Tomoki + Hal-
Want to go to Dan Chan's and get a drink with me?
Tracy

Alison + Nicole
I just want to be a baby too!
Love Sherry

Joe-
Smoke another...
Jibba

Tracy
Will you go to the movies and drink a Dr. Funk with me?
Love always, Tomoki

Jappy B-day Q,
Finally legal!
Love little Q

Danielle,
Nothing beats our gossip sessions. If only they knew.
Jen

Congratualtions Delta class of Phi Sigma Sigma! Way to go!
Love your pledge Mom,
Christine

Mary (god), Stacey, /+Julie,
Can we celebrate Thanksgiving at the Wine Cellar?
A concerned friend

Bacon dogs at 22 are only overdue
P.A. Pacemaster Mace

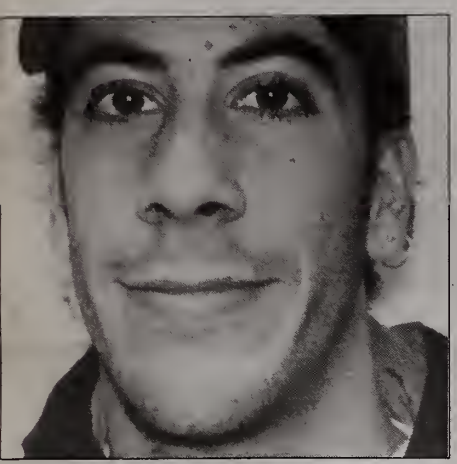
Lisa,
Oooh child, things are gonna get easier. Oooh child, will get brighter, Somday...Remember pillows and chocolate lasagna forever!
Oree & T-Dog

There's a certain shy Portuguese girl who would like to get to know a certain shy boy from 175.

Wow! Ralph brings new meaning to sucking face huh? Yes, yes she does. Oh, and by the way, got any gum?

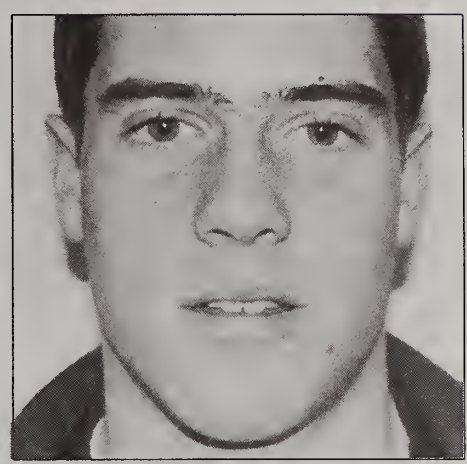
Sports Question of the Week:

How do you feel about fighting being eliminated in the NHL?



Mike Jackson
Hockey is a tough sport by nature. Sometimes it's neccessary to throw down especially when someone hits you with a cheap shot.

Jaime Monet
No way. Fighting is an integral part of the NHL. If it was eliminated hockey would become boring.



Mark Pillsburg
Fighting is a part of the game. It shouldn't be banned. It makes it more aggressive for the players and more exciting for the fans.

photos by Eric Metzner

MASCAC honors Fitchburg State Athletes

Amy Kosiewski

A host of Fitchburg State athletes were honored on the recently named All-MASCAC teams. Headlining the list are two stars who were named Players of the Year in their respective sports.

Senior forward Amy Kosiewski from Lancaster, MA was named field hockey Player of the Year. Sophomore Ginger Boermeester was one of three players to share the women's soccer Player of the Year honor.

The following is a summary of the remaining athletes to be honored:

photos by Eric Metzner

Ginger Boermeester

Women's Cross-Country- Melissa Lombard, Laurie Pouliot, Coreen White, Tina Rouine.

Field Hockey- Casey Bromage, Chris Miller, Tina Leger, Erika Oliver, Pam Fielding.

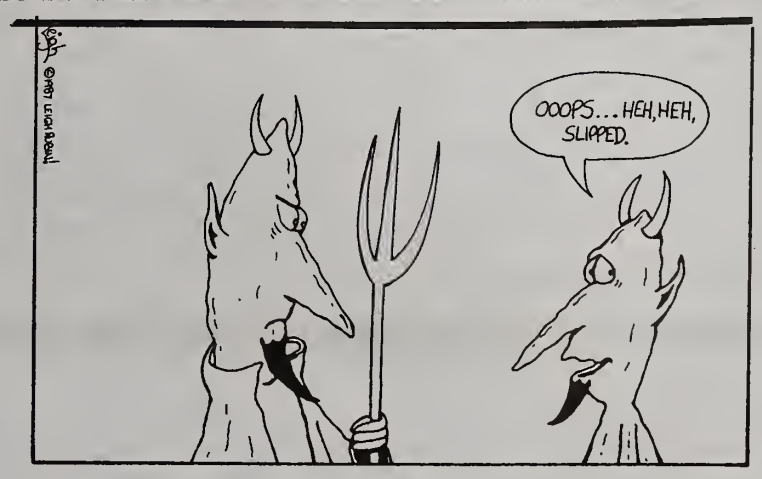
Men's Soccer- Matt Mullen, Steve Grico, Erik Ringuette, Dean Nichols, Chris Gillis, Antero Texiera, Takashi Adachi.

Women's Soccer- Stacie Mawn.

Women's Volleyball- Jenn Merchel, Vicki Camacho.

Rubes®

By Leigh Rubin



Hockey team ices UMass Dartmouth 5-1

by Michael Gordon
Strobe staff

Well, folks, crazy haircuts and work boots can be seen all over campus, and that can only mean one thing; the Falcon hockey team is back for another season.

Fitchburg began the season on the road against UMass-Amherst at the new Mullins Center. The multi-million dollar facility was stacked with "zoo" faithful who watched their team pound on the Falcons by a score of 10-3.

UMass has 12 scholarship players on their roster and it was quite evident. Tape-to-tape passing and very physical play is part of their repertoire. They out-hit, out-skated, and just out-played Fitchburg throughout the whole game.

Amongst the hardships for FSC, there were some bright spots. In particular, Dan Genatassio had an excellent game. The freshman lit the lamp twice and added an assist. Along with Genatassio, goaltenders Rob Horn and Aaron Abitz had good games despite the score. They each had over 20 saves.

On November 17, the Falcons opened the season at home against a tough UMass-Dartmouth squad, but Fitchburg rose to the occasion with a great effort to record their first win of this young season.

The Falcons came out with a lackluster first period performance. They were extremely lucky goaltender Rob Horn was focused and ready to play. UMass was all over Fitchburg in the first period. The game could have easily been over early, but luckily the period ended with no score.

After a scoreless first, defenseman Pat Turner got the Falcons on the board. Turner received a pass high in the slot and rifled a shot past the UMass goalkeepers right side. Junior Steve Lyden would get his first point of the year as he beat his man out of the corner and tucked one home on the short side.

Matt Park, after sitting for a few shifts, came out with something to prove. While mucking it up in front of the net, Park tipped home a shot from the point to give the Falcons a 3-0 lead. This goal sparked Matt's enthusiasm as he played hard-nosed hockey the remainder of the game.

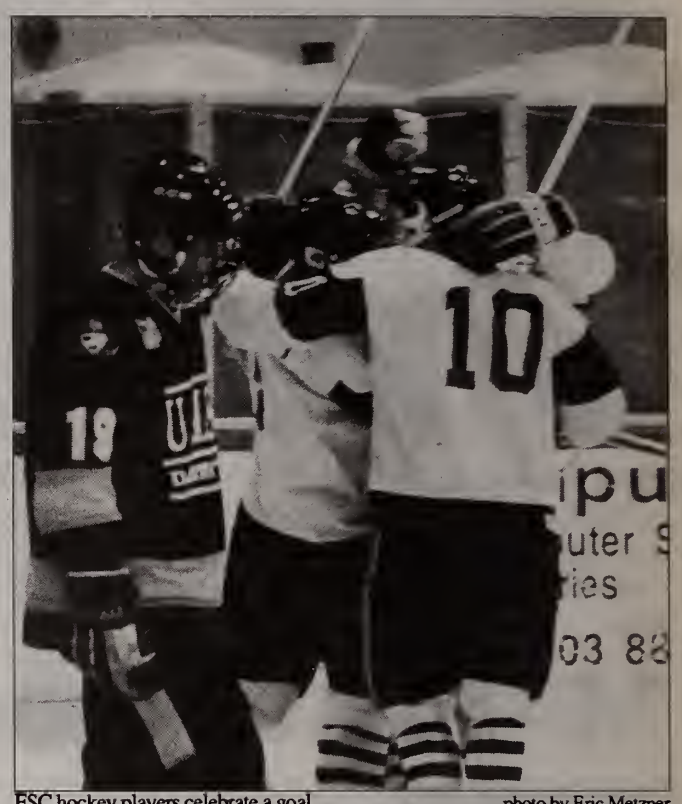
UMass would get a goal late in the second period. The teams headed to the locker room with Fitchburg leading 3-1.

The opening of the final stanza was scary for the Falcons. UMass came out hitting everything in sight. They finished off their checks and were picking up loose pucks for a slew of scoring chances, but goaltender Rob Horn maintained his composure and let the momentum shift to UMass.

Without a doubt, Fitchburg's best player was goaltender Rob Horn. He stoned two UMass players on clean break aways. He showed no signs of fatigue and frustrated the UMass attack all evening.

Fitchburg put the game away for good with roughly seven minutes remaining. Sophomore Pillsbury deflected a shot from defenseman Casey Nelson to give the Falcons a 4-1.

After a ten minute delay for glass repairs play resumed. Freshman Paul Connors added an insurance goal late. Fitchburg won the game 5-1, but the UMass team was much better than the score indicated. They will definitely be seeking revenge when the Falcons fly into their arena later on in the season.



FSC hockey players celebrate a goal. photo by Eric Metzner

Indoor track prepares for first meet

by Derek Valcourt
Strobe staff

The Indoor Track teams are off to a running start in anticipation of their first meet, the Brown Invitational on December 4. The men's team, led by Coach Jim Sheehan, assistant coach Steve Soulere, and co-captains Kris Theriault and Jason Desmarais, is made up of about 15 competitors each strong in their respective events.

"Our strengths are in the jumps this year," said Sheehan, who added that this first non-scoring meet would be a good opportunity to see how the teammates are prepared for the season.

Sophomore co-captain Desmarais is expected to lead the team in the long jump and triple jump competitions. Last year Desmarais was the Division III Indoor Track Triple Jump Champion. Sheehan also said that the return of Jimmy Darcangelo would add to the teams jumping strength because he will compete in the long jump and the high jump.

Two time All American and Falcon Co-captain Kris Theriault is training for his specialties: the shot put, discus, and javelin. "He's been working hard," said Sheehan. "I think he's capable of doing a lot."

Mark Witkowski returns to compete in the 800m and 400m races. "He'll be all right even though he's coming off an injury," said Sheehan.

Other returning strength to the team include Scott McCabe and Brad Durbin in the pole vault, Frank Legros in the high jump, Derek Valcourt in the hurdles, Eric Selinga in the 500m and 400m, and Brandon Auger in the long and triple jumps.

The first of two new additions to the team is freshman Scott D'angelo, who Sheehan said is a potential Decathalete because he is well-rounded. Sheehan also expects Falcon newcomer Dan Shouse to do well competing in the 400m and 200m races.

NHL makes dollars, not sense

by Michael Gordon
Strobe staff

I'm willing to bet, that if you asked sports writers and researchers from around the country which sport has the most dedicated, die hard fans, the answer would be professional hockey.

Just look at our teams. The Red Sox and Patriots are excluded. We'll focus on the Celtics and Bruins.

When the green and white are in town, the Garden is filled with nothing but Boston College, insurance selling, red-faced alumni with season tickets. Most own these seats just to impress and give them away to their boss. It looks like a Georgio Armani suit convention at the game.

The Bruins games are a much different scenario. Most of the fans sport team jerseys with their favorite players name on the back. They spend more on merchandise than Celtics fans. They go absolutely bananas for 60 minutes. And trying to pry away a friend's season ticket for a game is like trying to get water out of a rock.

However, this crazed support appears to be dwindling. Not just in Boston, but all around the National Hockey League. Here's why.

Money. It's all about money. Only in recent years has the salaries of hockey players even been comparable to the three other major sports. This is because of all the glitz and glamor that's been instilled by team owners and league officials.

The addition of all these expansion teams has taken away the very competitive nature and parody that was once so prevalent. It's difficult to get excited about playing the Mighty Ducks.

The intensity of rivalries seems to be almost completely wiped out. Instead of playing a team eight times a year, where much hatred is brewed, teams play each other six times and at greater intervals. This delay results in lost tension.

The quality of teams has also suffered. Players who wouldn't have made it to the big leagues five or six years ago are now getting their shot. This hurts the quality of the games being played. Instead of twelve excellent players on a team, there's only five. Teams must sacrifice to fill the rosters of expansion teams.

What's happened to all the hitting? I loved watching guys get run through the boards. Now they skate around like it's the ice capades. This is all due to the influx of European players and ridiculous rules to curb fighting.

If people hate fighting so much, why do they spend millions to watch two fighters beat each other for 36 minutes? Hockey fights only last one minute. They're short, sweet, and to the point. Don't be naive; people love it. It's human nature.

Since when is Michael Eisner, the CEO of Disney, a hockey guru? This fool has no business being part of the N.H.L. He goes around condemning violence. Yet, he feels comfortable supporting a movie like "The Three Musketeers". Don't you think this is a bit hypocritical?

Professional hockey is being ruined by nothing but self-centered, greedy, hypocritical businessman looking for another piece of the pie, and, like everything else these people touch, their ideas will eventually suck the true life right out of the sport. It's already happening.

Liberty Fitness

KEEP THAT SUMMER SHAPE!!

ONLY $29.00/Month

At Liberty Fitness Health Club
For Existing or previous members only

New members - 3 months for only
$87.00
Membership can be carried over from semester to semester for a $6.00 fee.

345-0361